

# Barracks Lane Community Garden



# From Garage Site...

- Garage Site in 2003 – garages abandoned, used for dumping ground and drug use

- Dangerous, dilapidated site, full of toxic waste – a crime area to the concern of the local community



Spring 2003

# ...to Community Garden



Summer 2011



# Plans turn into action

- 2005 The site is cleared of garages – but the concrete is thick and the land polluted
- Despite many obstacles, the project becomes a registered charity. Fundraising continues and Oxford City Council is lobbied for a lease



Autumn 2006

# Fruits of labour

- 2006 and the efforts paid off. A lease is granted and fundraising bids enable work to begin on site.



- Celebration time!



Autumn 2006

# Diggers and Dreamers

- It was a massive job – removing the concrete and replacing the contaminated soil.
- Work in progress: Will it be worth it?



Autumn/Winter 2006

# Meanwhile...

...community involvement continues with regular swap shops and events – this time in the driveway because of the excavation work on site...





# The garden takes shape April 2007




For the initial structural set up of the garden about £80,000 were fundraised. From 2003 to 2012 the garden received £200,000 in total.

- Thanks to funding support from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, Oxfordshire Preservation Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Oxford City Council and Wren community grants



# The first Open Day in 2007

## Barracks Lane Community Garden Workshops programme in 2007

Date	Workshop	
<b>May</b>	<b>Sat 5</b>	<b>Opening Event</b> Fence painting - Vicky Cooke Soil fertility and composting - Tomas Remiarz & Plant Swap! Introduction to permaculture - Phil Pritchard
	<b>Sun 20</b>	BBQ and Open Day as part of Cowley Feast (TBC)
	<b>Sat 26</b>	Workshop to be confirmed (TBC)
	<b>June</b>	Storytelling from Ethiopia - Eden Solomon
<b>June</b>	<b>Sat 16</b>	<b>Grand Launch event and official opening</b> <i>With events including:</i> Renga - Anne-Marie Culhane Rangoli workshop - Harjeet Kaur <i>and evening event with music &amp; poetry!</i>
	<b>Sat 23</b>	Puppetmaking - Cath Conolly
	<b>July</b>	Yoga workshop (adults only) - Anita Lewis
<b>July</b>	<b>Sat 14</b>	Drumming & Percussion - Graeme Surtees
	<b>Sat 21</b>	Mosaic - Vicky Wilson
	<b>Sat 28</b>	Set-making workshop for Carmina Burana - Cait Sweeney
	<b>August</b>	Clowning and Physical theatre - Jonny Hoskins
<b>August</b>	<b>Sat 11</b>	Landscape collage - Gemma Burditt
	<b>Sun 19</b>	Capoeira workshop - Luis Do Patrocínio
	<b>Sat 25</b>	
<b>September</b>	<b>Sat 1</b>	Cob Oven building - Rebecca Beinart
	<b>Sat 8</b>	Willow and words - Susie Dadd / Jane Flood
	<b>Sat 15</b>	<b>Harvest workshop &amp; feast</b> Cooking - Rebecca Beinart Baking - Sarah Hulme Seed harvesting - Vicky Cooke
	<b>Sat 22</b>	Art workshop - Vicky Vergou
	<b>Sat 29</b>	Celtic harp - Steph West
<b>Oct</b>	<b>Sat 6</b>	Theatre of the Oppressed- Tereza Araujo
	<b>Sat 20</b>	Lantern-Making workshop (TBC)
	<b>Nov</b>	Bonfire event and Lantern parade
<b>Nov</b>	<b>Sat 3</b>	Tree-Planting (TBC)
	<b>Sat 17</b>	

Times and details  
will be available soon.  
Workshops are for all ages  
unless specified otherwise.  
For info, please email Katy at  
katy@katybeinart.co.uk  
or visit the BLCG website:  
<http://hometown.aol.co.uk/johnbaps/>

Barracks Lane Community Garden Project ( Charity No. 1116544) gratefully acknowledges funding support from The Community Action Groups Project, Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, WREN Landfill Communities Fund, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire Preservation Trust.



Spring 2007

# Values & Principles

Soil, Soul, Society

- Community managed by volunteers
- Supported by freelance experts and services as needed
- Biodiversity and people diversity
- Demonstration projects – ideas and skills people can learn and apply in their own home/garden
- Reuse/recycle/renew – solar energy services and compost toilets only



Values/Principles take shape in 2007

# ...Values & Principles

Soil, Soul, Society

- Accessible and welcoming to all:  
Any age, faith or background
- Learning and leisure, work and play
- Creativity and innovation
- Caring for the soil, plants, animals and planet
- Involvement with and by other community groups



Values/Principles take shape in 2007

# Transforming Space 2008/2009



# Transforming Space

Building work in progress



Ongoing work 2008/2009

# Transformation: The beach and the Yurt



Ongoing work 2008/2009

# Transformation: Compost Toilets



Ongoing work 2009/2010



# Learning with hands, heart and head

- *"We always have such a good time visiting the Garden and try to come as often as possible. A Lovely, safe, child friendly and engaging environment to play and join in the amazing activities provided. Thank you for all the hard work you put in. "*
- *Fantastic! A beautiful place for children to feel free and express themselves!*  
Comments from Family Nature Club



# Oxford Community School BTEC students deliver a series of panels for the entrance way



Ongoing work 2010

# Transformation: The green roof



Green roof (including water harvesting) and solar panel are installed



Green Roof installation 2010

# 2010 – Focus on local food

Sharing knowledge and skills in a practical way – and it's fun!

- Compost bins and chicken workshops
- Learning about bees



Courses/Events 2010

# Permaculture Design Course

- Studying Permaculture and putting design plans into action – regular Permaculture meetings keep knowledge updated



# 2010 Summary:

- Over 3000 visitors, regular community groups, birthday parties, celebrations and courses!



# How does it all work?

## Organizations as eco-systems

Who will tend the garden? The organization needs to be cared for as much as the physical space - literally and metaphorically.

- Sow – ideas – bring in new trustees/groups
- Tend – take care of processes – what is working what is not
- Feed and water – look after and appreciate people who have contributed – give attention to meetings and make them better!
- Harvest – remember to celebrate and have fun
- Prune/weed – get rid of unnecessary processes/rules/habits.
- Compost – learn from experience – turnover of trustees, groups and activities to fertilize the future.



# Recent Developments – 2011

- The new Octagonal built in January 2011 - funded by Oxfordshire County Council's Aiming High program
- Side view with accessible entrance and compost toilet and Internal view – Access expands use by disabled people





# Parasol Local Food Project 2011

- Parasol at the Barracks Lane Community Garden – disabled and non-disabled people learning to grow food, weave baskets, make clay pots and build a cob oven to cook their harvest.
- This project is supported by Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Stronger Communities and the Big Lottery Local food programme.



- *"People gel together like more of a community. There are good facilities like growing fruit and veg. We made a clay oven and fired pots". Jonathan , 16*
- *"It feels like an escape from the city... I love hanging out here. I would tell others to come here". Sophie, 19.*
- *"Being here makes me feel human!"William, 18*

# Ongoing groups and activities

- Bug hotel workshop
- Wild food harvest and cooking workshops



# Women's Sow and Grow May/June 2011

- Bringing together 45 women from different cultures and faiths
- Learning to grow their own food and introduce sustainability



# Ongoing groups and activities

- Building the cob oven as part of a workshop
- Annie using the cob oven to create delicious cakes for all...



Summer 2011

# Using local and wild food

- Apple pressing Days – Making juice from apples from your back garden or local park
- Harvesting/catching wild food and using traditional ways to prepare it



Summer/Autumn 2011

# Overview of Groups involved

- The Parasol Project
- Children's Centres
- The Nature Effect
- Oxfordshire Mind
- Women's Sow and Grow
- Oxford Permaculture
- Women's Interfaith Network
- Community Action Groups



- **How to book the garden:**
- The garden has proven to be a very popular venue for locals to hold children's parties, meetings, workshops, and other community events. For a generous donation, which helps with the upkeep and running costs of the garden, you can book the garden for private events and workshops.
- **Email**  
barrackslanegarden@yahoo.co.uk
- **Call:** Julieanne: Oxford 236 088

# Big Thanks to...

## **...all supporters and funders!**

### **Including:**

Big Lottery Awards for All and Breathing  
Spaces  
Links Allotment Association  
Local Food Programme  
Oxford City Council  
Oxford Preservation Trust  
Oxfordshire County Council  
The Midcounties Co-operative  
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE)  
Waste Recycling Environmental Limited  
(WREN)  
Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Fund

## **...everyone putting their energy and skills into the project!**

### **Including:**

Stew Thorpe, David Jones, Lorraine  
Jackson, Collin May, Julieanne Porter,  
Phil Pritchard, Annie Davy, John  
Green, Nicky Wild, Stuart Turner, Sue  
Tetzner, Cathy Havell, Mark Glenscape,  
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Mark Lee, Stig, Kate Jury, Oto Velicka,  
Peter Lefort, Jenny Crease, Lucy  
Ginsburg, Debbie Scrivener, Antonia  
Hund-Goeschel and many others!

# Barracks Lane Community Garden

...needs YOU to keep it successful... Get involved!

For more information go to:

<http://www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk/>

or email [barrackslanegarden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barrackslanegarden@yahoo.co.uk)

